

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018
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The Chair opens the meeting

- Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room
- **Selectboard Members present:** Christopher Boutwell, Richard Kuklewicz, and Michael Nelson (arrived at 6:10 PM).
- **Finance Committee members present:** Jen Audley, Fred Bowman, Greg Garrison, John Hanold, Chris Menegoni, and Richard Widmer. Michael Naughton was absent.
- **Others present:** Town Administrator Steve Ellis and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen.
- The Finance Committee Chair announced that the meeting is being recorded by MCCI and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one else was recording the meeting.

Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements

Selectmen Moved:

To authorize the Board Chair and Town Administrator to make any decisions they believe to be in the best interest of the town in relation to Southworth's motion to dismiss its bankruptcy in federal bankruptcy court on April 5th.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Minutes –

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 14, 2018.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 21, 2018.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

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Reconsideration of money articles and funding sources for Annual Town Meeting

The New England Police Benevolent Association, which covers bargaining units for Police Sergeants and Police Officers & Detectives, has approved Memorandums of Agreement for with the Board of Selectmen. This new contract will cover Fiscal Years 2017 through 2019.

The budget request for the Police Department has been adjusted to reflect the changes resulting from the new contract. The revised Police department budget request has increased from \$1,590,107 to \$1,649,928.

Mr. Nelson arrived at 6:10 PM.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$1,649,928 for the revised Police department budget.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$9,400,018 for the total town operating budget, \$75,000 from Free Cash and \$9,325,018 from Taxation.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To revise an earlier vote and recommend that the \$72,000 for the GMRSD Building Management System upgrade be funded from Free Cash instead of Taxation.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To revise an earlier vote and recommend that the \$12,000 for the Hillcrest Security Entrance be funded from Taxation instead of Free Cash.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

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Selectboard Recommendations

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend the revised Schedule I, Wages for Elected Officials and Schedule II, Wages for Appointed Officials.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$172,981 for the corrected Assessors' budget.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$1,649,928 for the revised Police department budget.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$9,400,018 for the total town operating budget, with \$75,000 from Free Cash and \$9,325,018 from Taxation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To revise an earlier vote and recommend that the \$12,000 for the Hillcrest Security Entrance be funded from Taxation instead of Free Cash.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$30,000 for the COA front entry replacement, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

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Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$100,000 for the DPW Discretionary Account, to be funded from Taxation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$72,000 for Montague's share of the GMRSD Building Management System upgrades at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$30,000 for the Sheffield Intercom System, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$25,000 for the Hillcrest Intercom System, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$521,000 for the WPCF solar array, to be funded from Sewer Borrowing.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$25,000 for the replacement of control panels and alarms at the Denton Street and Montague Center pump stations, to be funded from Sewer User Fees.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

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Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$150,000 for repairs to windows and masonry of the Colle building, to be funded from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$974,338 for the total FCTS assessment, including the operating assessment of \$951,505 plus \$22,833 for the capital assessment, to be funded with \$53,465 from the FCTS Stabilization Fund and \$920,873 to be funded from Taxation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$121,726 for the Town General Stabilization Fund, to be funded from Taxation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$76,294 for the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, to be funded from Taxation.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

The Board of Selectmen adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Draft Finance Committee Report

Mr. Hanold asked for suggestions for changes to the draft report.

- Ms. Audley suggested adding more definitions of finance terms like stabilization funds, how they are funded and what are they used for. Define that taxation includes more than the tax levy. Explain Enterprise Funds and the Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation fund.

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- Ms. Audley also suggested making sure categories are consistent between text and pie charts.
- The issue of culture, how the town supports it, the investments that the town has made, and how to share that information was discussed with no resolution but the intent to revisit the topic.
- Mr. Garrison suggested providing highlights after the boilerplate explanation.
- Other suggestions included a handbook for town meeting members including budget terms and meanings or a handout in the town meeting packet with a glossary of finance terms used. Mr. Ellis suggested a brief glossary in the front of the report.
- Mr. Widmer thinks this an important document speaking to who we are and what we do and that we want to make the information as accessible as possible.
- Ms. Audley suggested emphasizing that we strive for a balanced budget after evaluating resources and spending requests, and that if someone wants to increase a budget, cuts will be needed elsewhere to balance the budget.
- Ms. Audley provided some corrections of language in the sections on school district assessments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

List of Documents and Exhibits:

- Minutes of March 21, 2017
- Revised Police Department budget

Next Meeting Dates:

April 11, 2018	Reserve Fund Transfer for ZBA, Revise and approve Finance Committee Report
April 18, 2018	final re-votes, if required, approve FC Report if needed
EOY Recap	How beneficial/useful were the department narratives?